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Student fees may rise \$25 for computers

BY KIM LEONARD AND
JOHN STAMPER

Should Western increase student fees by \$25 to raise \$600,000 for improved technology on campus?

This is one of two \$600,000 questions the Board of Regents will be asking at their meeting at 8:30 Tuesday morning as they discuss next year's budget.

The second question: Should Western spend \$600,000 of its university reserve funds to air condition the Agricultural Exposition Center?

The finance committee of the board approved the increased

fee yesterday as part of next year's budget.

Charles Anderson, vice president for information technology, said he wants to replace the current 250 computers on campus and buy 100 new machines with the extra technology fees.

"We want to increase the number of machines but lower the number of labs," Anderson said at yesterday's meeting. "We have some labs, such as the one in Poland Hall, that aren't used very much at all and we have some, like the one in (Downing University Center), that are busy."

Anderson said he talked to

five classes to get their opinion on the fee increase.

**"Today I went to the
(Helm-Cravens)
Library and had to wait
45 minutes to use a
computer."**

— Brian Davis
Bowling Green junior

"I don't sense anything but overwhelming support from stu-

dents for this increase," he said.

Bowling Green junior Brian Davis said he doesn't have a problem with the fee.

"If it's used for more computers — yeah," he said. "Today I went to the (Helm-Cravens) Library and had to wait 45 minutes to use a computer."

Student Regent Kristen Miller could not be reached last night to comment on the proposed increase.

The air conditioning debate will also heat up Tuesday with Faculty Regent Ray Mendel openly criticizing President Thomas Meredith's effort to cool

the ag expo center.

"The reason this is coming up now, I think, is because the president is leaving and he is trying to get things done for certain individuals who have influence over the president," Mendel said in an interview. "Six-hundred thousand dollars out of the university reserves for this purpose is completely inappropriate ... and doesn't serve the students' needs."

Mendel said no students use the facility during summer months when air conditioning is needed. He said a compromise

SEE FEES, PAGE 10

Coffman takes charge

BY MATT BATCHELOR

With a flap of her gray felt cape, self-proclaimed Wonder Woman Kristen Miller ushered in this year's SGA election results.

The outgoing Student Government Association president dressed in the action hero garb in response to the editorial which ran in Tuesday's Herald especially for the occasion — to announce that Russellville junior Keith Coffman will be next year's SGA president.

"Good afternoon, fair citizens," the Louisville senior told the throng in SGA chambers Tuesday.

"I just got back from a long day of fighting the forces of evil," Miller was probably speaking of her afternoon travails, helping hand count 886 ballots in SGA's general election, or little more than 6 percent of the campus population.

When the voting ended at 4 p.m., Coffman finished 200 votes ahead of his opponent, Versailles junior Carlene Lodmell.

Coffman received the good news "a little bit anxious and a little bit excited at the same time."

"When they were getting ready to announce (the winner), my heart started pounding like it had never pounded before."

Lodmell had positive things to say about the election process.

"I really wish the best of luck to the people on executive council this year," she said.

So did Miller.

"I just want to tell everyone they ran a clean campaign," Miller said. "It's all about working together, not fighting each other."

Mayfield sophomore Leigh Ann Sears spoke excitedly about having the chance to work with Coffman next semester as SGA's newly elected vice president.

"I think he's going to be terrific,"

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 3



Chris Obenchain/Herald

Water fun: During the intramural water polo championship yesterday in the Preston Health and Activities Center, Crestwood junior Greg Charnoli of the Sigma Chi fraternity blocks Lexington freshman Brian Raisor of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Sigma Chi won the championship 23-7.

Food service contract still undecided

BY SHANNON BACK

The finance committee of the Board of Regents had planned to decide yesterday who it would recommend for Western's food service contract. But when members emerged from a closed session, no decision on a company had been made.

The change in the agenda was because of "legal technicalities," said Regent Burns Mercer, chairman of the committee.

University Attorney Deborah Wilkins said the legal technicality was a problem in presenting the name of the recommended company to the public. She said the committee realized action couldn't be taken without releasing the company's name. Therefore, it decided to let the full board decide Tuesday instead of making a recommendation as planned.

Marriott's five-year contract expires June 30. It is the current food service company. The board will either choose a new company Tuesday or choose to

update Marriott's contract.

Last semester, the university decided to make changes in the food service contract. Since there will be a different contract, other companies were allowed to bid, Jim Ramsey, vice president for finance and administration, told the committee.

The university assigned a food committee in October to review proposals from potential companies, conduct student surveys and recommend a company. Gary Meszaros, director of Business Services, said the committee made its recommendation based on the results.

Meszaros, who is chairman of the food committee, presented the recommendation to Ramsey and President Thomas Meredith on March 31. He said he gave a written proposal to both men and spoke at length with Meredith.

"I talked with both of them but at different times," Meszaros said. "Dr. Meredith made his recommendation based on what I told him of our committee's findings."

Meredith's recommendation was discussed with the finance committee in closed session yesterday. It is considered the "university recommendation," Wilkins said.

Meredith and Ramsey were the only people outside the food committee to hear Meszaros' proposal until yesterday's finance committee meeting. Wilkins said the committee had planned to make their own recommendation and both would be presented to the board on Tuesday.

Instead, Mercer said it will "discuss the findings with the full board." The board will then vote on which company will run Western's food service starting June 1.

"The whole board will decide at once instead of hearing a recommendation from the finance committee first," Wilkins said. "It's a big issue. They might go into closed session again to discuss it. They all need to be involved in choosing who will control our food service."

◆ News analysis

Finance committee closes meeting door

BY SHANNON BACK

The university decided yesterday that it would be in everyone's best interest to close a meeting concerning who will be in charge of campus food next semester.

The finance committee of the Board of Regents went into closed session yesterday to discuss which company it would recommend the board choose to take over Western's food service contract. Marriott's contract expires in June.

Before reporters were shut out of the meeting, University Attorney Deborah Wilkins told a Herald reporter no decisions would be made behind closed doors.

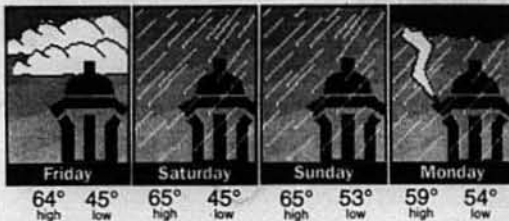
"When they are done, you can come back in and they will decide their recommendation," she said.

According to the Kentucky open meetings and open records law 61.800, "... the formation of public policy is public business and shall not be conducted in secret."

And, if a group does go into closed session as is allowed by KRS 61.810, it still must follow KRS 61.805 to 61.850, which

SEE DOOR, PAGE 8

Herald forecast



♦ Just a sec

Alleged sexual abuse investigated

A 19-year-old female Western student was allegedly sexually abused early Friday morning by a 19-year-old male from Western at a party at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house. The alleged incident occurred between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m. in a shed behind the fraternity house, according to the police report. The Bowling Green Police Department is investigating the case as a first degree sexual abuse incident. Crime Analysis Officer Pat Thomas said no charges have been filed. He said the case could be taken before the Warren County grand jury for indictment or the victim could file for a warrant to bring charges against the suspect.

♦ Campus line

College Republicans meet at 6 tonight in Downing University Center, Room 308. For more information, contact Theresa Criss at 745-4206.

Amazing Tones of Joy celebrate their 26th anniversary at 4 p.m. Sunday at Mount Zion Baptist Church. For more information, contact John Long at 745-5753.

♦ Clearing the air

A letter to the editor in Tuesday's Herald misidentified Mekisha Page, a senior from Hendersonville, Tenn. A story in Tuesday's Herald misidentified Warren County Sheriff Jerry Gaines.



Jason Behnken/Herald

Playing with fire: Lexington senior Paul Wehman does raku, a low fire glazing technique with specialized clay, in ceramics Tuesday afternoon in the fine arts center.

♦ For the record/crime reports

Reports

♦ Laura Briggs, Zacharias Hall, reported April 17 her pay check, valued at \$258, stolen while en route to the post office between April 14 and April 17. A theft of mail matter report was filed.

♦ Tisha Hardin, Central Hall, reported Saturday the driver side door of her vehicle, valued at \$500, damaged while it was parked in Central Hall lot. A third degree criminal mischief report was filed.

♦ Byron Lightsey, Keen Hall, reported Sunday the front windshield of his vehicle, valued at \$300, damaged while it was parked in the Pearce-Ford Tower service drive.

♦ Tia Roberts, Bemis Lawrence, reported Monday \$75

stolen from her dresser between April 4 and April 19.

♦ Charles Garrett, Poland Hall, reported Tuesday \$25 stolen between April 6 and April 12 and \$25 stolen April 15 while en route to the post office. A theft of mail matter report was filed.

Arrests

♦ Thomas Morgan III, Poland, was arrested April 17 for possession of marijuana. He was released from the Warren County Regional Jail the next day on a \$500 unsecured bond.

♦ William Benningfield, 523 E. 13th Street, was arrested Sunday for public alcohol intoxication. He was released from Warren County Regional Jail the same day after serving five hours.

♦ Charles Garrett, Poland, was

arrested Sunday for driving under the influence of drugs, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released from the Warren County Regional Jail the next day on a \$500 unsecured bond.

♦ Regina Adkins, 670 Mt. Olivet Road, was arrested Wednesday for first degree driving under the influence of drugs and two counts of refusal of chemical tests. She is currently being held at the Warren County Regional Jail on a \$967.50 cash bond.

♦ Julie Burns, 1500 Patrick Way, was arrested Sunday for first degree driving under the influence under 21 years of age. She was taken to the Warren County Regional Jail. No release information was available.

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New SGA president maps upcoming term

BY MATT BATCHELOR

Meet Keith Coffman.

Meet a 22-year-old who travels the country drag racing in a 1966 Nova Supersport, listens to most any kind of music and dabbles in tennis and golf.

Meet a fellow who thinks Western has a serious parking problem, an outdated tenure system and dorms with too many public showers.

Meet next year's Student Government Association president.

"I'm hoping that everybody realizes I'm not a politician," Coffman said after he was elected SGA president Tuesday. "I'm a student like anybody else."

But in one way the Russellville junior isn't like any student on the face of this campus. Thanks to his election, he is also on the Board of Regents, a group that will replace outgoing President Thomas Meredith with a new presidential face, one Coffman said he's taking seriously.

"It's not like they're a person at McDonald's selling hamburgers," Coffman said. "It's an important job. Whoever it is, I'm hoping they're willing to address the concerns of the students."

As a student and a regent, Coffman has many concerns of his own. First of all, Western does have a parking problem, he said.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that," he said. "That's one reason I live so close (to Western). I don't want to deal

with that hassle."

Coffman learned that "the hard way" after commuting from Russellville for a year. There weren't enough parking spaces then, he said, and it's getting worse.

"Especially if they're going to start making people live on campus for two years," he said. "It's going to keep happening as long as an increase in enrollment occurs."

Beginning next year, incoming students must live on campus during their freshman and sophomore years.

"If you don't do something about it and tell freshmen they can't have a car at school, they won't come here."

If Western wants to increase enrollment, which has dropped in

past years, it must take steps to improve the dorms as well as the parking, Coffman said.

"We have Zacharias Hall and New Sorority Hall and they look awesome," he said with a distant glance, recalling his first impressions of Western. "In Keen (Hall), the bathrooms don't even have shower stalls."

"If you have someone visit the university and there's only two nice dorms ... you're going to go where you'll be most

comfortable."

Bringing students into Western is largely the regents' responsibility, Coffman said, and that should include homosexuals. He wants them included in the university's non-discrimination policy and he said he will get the topic on the regents' agenda as soon as he's president.

"Personally, I'm as straight as they come, but I wouldn't want to be discriminated against because I'm straight."



"I'm hoping that everybody realizes I'm not a politician. I'm a student like anybody else."

— Keith Coffman
Russellville junior

going person, very friendly," he said. "He likes to set goals and reach them."

Newly-elected vice-president Leigh Ann Sears, a Mayfield sophomore, said she can't wait to work with Coffman on improving the dorms and "things (that) didn't get finished."

Coffman and Sears both served on SGA's Campus Improvements committee last year and both said they share the same goals. Versailles junior Carlene Lodmell

wished the man who defeated her in the elections the best of luck, but she expects him to live up to his campaign promises.

"I'd like to see ... if those are fulfilled," she said.

Coffman looked wistfully into the future. "Basically, I want to be respected," he said. "I couldn't see myself working in a factory day in and day out. I want to be in control of my own destiny."

Coffman's other goals

Coffman briefly touched on some of his other goals as president:

◆ Revamp tenure system

Let the majority of students decide how effective each individual professor's teaching style is and let students take away their tenure if absolutely necessary.

"Make them perform."

◆ More library hours

"I would love to see our (Helm-Cravens) Library open 24 hours. I've been in universities that are open 24 hours and you would not believe how many people are there."

◆ Fix University Boulevard

Write a resolution to encourage the state to increase the safety on University Boulevard, where a student was hit last month.

"First thing I'm going to do is bring (the issue) to the administration. Second, if that doesn't work, I'm going to write a letter to the governor. That'll probably be one of the first things I'll do."

CHARGE: Numbers at polls rise

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

she said. "He's very down to earth. He knows what the students want. I know he's going to try to get SGA's name out there."

Sears and Coffman have already brought tidings of the organization to Leigh Curtis, a sophomore from Portland, Tenn.

"I had heard a lot of good things about (Coffman) through friends that knew him," she said.

"(Sears) is a really nice person and she'll do a good job."

One of Curtis' votes went to secretary-elect Jamie Fite, a junior from Hermitage, Tenn. Fite's nervous giggles awaiting the election results turned into words of joy yesterday as she shared some of her plans for next semester.

She wants to work with Coffman to get students involved — early.

"Especially in the spring, we have a lot of empty offices," Fite

said. "Maybe I'll go to each hall in MASTER Plan to get them in SGA."

More students had their say at the ballot box this semester since the SGA elections of 1994, when 983 chose an SGA president.

This year's 886 votes is a generous increase from last year's election, when 633 went to the polls. Even with the relatively large increase in votes, Western's remaining 12,921 students decided not to cast a ballot.

And the votes are in

PRESIDENT

Keith Coffman — 534
Carlene Lodmell — 334
no vote — 18

SECRETARY

Jamie Fite — 452
Darlene Lodmell — 396
no vote — 34

VICE PRESIDENT

Leigh Ann Sears — 498
David Apple — 371
no vote — 15

TREASURER

Chad Lewis — 518
Steve Roadcap — 327
no vote — 40

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Opinion

Equality in scholarships vital

A year-long study recently released by the Faculty Senate has added fodder for a topic that has been debated for years: equality in academic and athletics scholarships.

Some interesting facts came out of the study.

- ♦ ACT scores were lowest for athletic scholarship recipients.

- ♦ The number of students receiving academic scholarships exceeded the number of students receiving any other type of award.

- ♦ Athletics scholarship recipients generally ended up with more money than their academic scholarship counterparts.

"I think that's backwards," Glasgow sophomore Amy Bowman said in the April 17 issue of the Herald. "It's an academic institution — not an athletic institution. That's the whole point of being here."

Although there are more academic scholarship winners with higher ACT scores than athletics scholarship winners, they get less money. It doesn't make much sense.

Now don't jump the gun — we're not knocking athletes. They bust their butts at practice and games. But more scholarship money should be allotted to recognize academic excellence. It's only fair; the 42 freshmen who hold 4.0 grade-point averages but don't receive scholarships are proof of that.

This issue isn't uncontrollable. The administration has power to change the cycle. Barbara Burch, vice president for Academic Affairs, spoke on behalf of the administration in the April 17 story:

"We really have taken a larger hand in the scholarship process. Though I admit a lot of it was about what we haven't done and what we could do," she said.

They should do something about it. The Faculty Senate thinks so too.

In a unanimous vote, the members sent a recommendation to the president's office encouraging the university to "assess whether the high stipends offered student athletes" are consistent with the school's "avowed commitment to academic excellence."

There are a few things the senate suggested the university could do to balance the scales.

- ♦ Without reducing scholarship funds available for graduating high school students, the senate proposed to offer more money to returning students with high grade-point averages.

- ♦ Combining scholarships with offers of financial aid could help bring prospective students to Western and keep them here. Although Financial Aid Director Marilyn Clark questioned the feasibility of the idea, it's something the university should investigate.

And we have a proposal, too. For every athletics scholarship given to our star athletes, the university should provide an equivalent academic scholarship in addition to the current pool of academic scholarship money. Now that's commitment to academics.

Good grades shouldn't be a punishment; students should be acknowledged if they are doing a great job. After all, maintaining a 4.0 GPA isn't easy. And neither is staying at a university that doesn't reward academic success.



♦ Herald policies

The Opinion page is for the expression of ideas, both yours and ours.

Our opinion takes the form of editorials and columns. The editorial and the editorial cartoon that appear on page four are the expressed opinions of the Editorial Board and therefore the position of the Herald.

The commentaries that appear on page five are the expressed views of the columnists who write them. Also, the cartoons that appear on page five are the opinion of the cartoonists. Commentaries and cartoons are edited by the Editorial Board.

Your opinions can be expressed in letters to the editor. Letters can also be submitted through the Internet. Send them to Opinion Page editor Chris Hutchins at hutchins@wku.edu.

Writers are generally limited to two letters per semester. Letters must be typed or neatly written, with the writer's name, hometown, phone number and grade classification or job title. Letters submitted should be no more than 350 words in length. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of space limitations we can't promise that every letter. The Herald will discontinue printing letters that offer little new insight to the debate on a topic.

Commentaries are also more than welcome. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to share their opinions with the Western community.

Topics for commentaries are completely up to the writer. Although commentaries may be edited for style and length, the opinion expressed is the writer's alone.

Much like letters, space limitations

restrict the number of commentaries that may run in each issue. We can't promise every commentary will be printed.

Letters to the editor and commentaries can be submitted to the Herald office at Garrett Center, Room 109, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The deadline for letters is 4 p.m. Friday for Tuesday's paper and 4 p.m. Tuesday for Thursday's paper.

There is no deadline for commentaries; they may be submitted at any time during the year.

People poll

♦ Is there equality in academic and athletics scholarships at Western?



"No. What attracts students to college is the athletics. A university's prestige is based on that, and there isn't an emphasis on academics."

John Hildreth, Cincinnati senior



"There are people I know who have academic scholarships and they've worked hard for them. The same goes for the ones that are on athletic scholarships."

Erin Ward, Somerset junior



"No. I'm a music major, and if I were a football player, I'd be getting a free ride. Instead I'm struggling just to get a scholarship."

Paul McCoy, Burkesville senior



"I guess it's equal. I don't know many people on scholarship with athletics, but I do know some on academic scholarships."

Jamie Adams, Louisville freshman



"A big chunk of the money goes to the athletics department. Sometimes academics doesn't get as much, so it's not able to grow as quickly."

Sylvia Pulliam, computer science associate professor

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♦ The views expressed on the opinion page are not necessarily those of the journalism department, the college, the university or the student body.

♦ Opinions can be expressed in letters to the editor. Deadlines for letters to the editor are 4 p.m. Friday for Tuesday's paper and 4 p.m. Tuesday for Thursday's paper.

Forum

Family ties more important than college

To go or not to go, that was the question. Every weekend I ask that question.

Choosing a college three hours away has made home visits difficult and rare adventures. I don't make the trip often, but I'm usually able to go when I want. A few weeks ago though, I had to choose between my family and my life here for the first time. In a sense, I had to choose between school and my sister.

When I was in high school all I could think of was moving away. Now that I'm in college, I'm forced to stay away — sometimes even when I don't want to.

College life presented many obstacles for me to overcome.

First, there were the small things I had to cope with: finding space for me and all my stuff in my new room (which is the size of my bathroom at home), dealing with sharing this small space with someone else and having to wait for 10-15 minutes for other girls to

shower before I'd step onto the bacteria-filled floor and hope my feet didn't touch.

It didn't take long before the realization set in that people skills and flip-flops weren't going to solve all my problems.

I made a few friends. But when weekends came, they disappeared. After a few weekends of three-hour driving misery, I decided college was taking me down a different road. After all, that's why I left, right?

Now I'm at the end of my second semester and I've adjusted. I've found new friends who stay here as much as I do. And I've learned not to depend on my family as much.

The downside, though, is not getting to see my family as much.

This became real to me last weekend.

My family had hoped that I would come home. Although I wanted to, my "to do" list kept getting longer, and I knew I couldn't make the trip.

I called home that Thursday night to tell my family. My sister Nikki answered the phone and before I could tell her I wasn't coming, she began to tell me how excited that she was going to get to see me.



Shannon Back
Commentary

Nikki is 12 years old, has black hair and brown eyes, but somehow looks more and more like me every time I see her.

She has played the trumpet for two years and her band concert was the next day. Since I played percussion for six years, I understand the importance of concerts.

But this wasn't just any concert. It was a competition at Morehead State University. She had been practicing her solo for months.

I had completely forgotten. I wanted to watch the concert, but I had an important seminar to go to the next day. Even if I went home, I'd miss the concert.

As I explained this to her, I could almost hear her heart sinking. When she got really quiet and murmured, "That's OK," my heart sank too.

At the end of our conversation, we both said bye but as I hung up the phone I heard her say, "Shannon?"

I put the phone back to my ear just in time to hear her say, "Please come home. I don't care if you can't see the concert, just come home." For a moment my whole world stood still and we said nothing. Tears came to my eyes as she said with a shaky voice, "I love you."

"I love you too," I said. At that moment I knew what I'd

be doing that night — packing.

This is just one of the incidents that has forced me to notice that my sister is growing up. Sometimes I feel guilty I'm not there to see it. Every time I see her she looks older and acts more mature. I can't help but feel I'm missing out on something and I know she feels that way too.

When I go home we try to spend "quality time" together, but it never seems to be enough. When I get back to school I still miss her.

She will be 13 years old next month and it seems like yesterday she was my real-life baby doll. I don't get to see her as much as I'd like to, but the time we do spend, together has somehow kept us close. I know how important family is. And I know that we have a special relationship.

Not just because we're sisters, but because we're friends.

Editor's Note: Shannon Back is a freshman print journalism major from Mt. Sterling.

Springtime causes Fever-ish ailments

There are some commentaries I write that are simply an enormous load of platypus compost. There are some that have all the love from my heart. And then there are some I dare not discuss for fear of getting jumped. Today I go where no one goes without wishing they had gone where they couldn't go when they had gone to go there. Or something like that.

Anyway, I'm going to discuss the differences between the sexes — and today I, Ryan Craig

Ryan Craig
Commentary

affliction, The Snap.

The Snap is when a woman stands around men suffering from Spring Fever and snaps her fingers, tosses her hair back, pouts her lips — something to grab their attention. Then legions of men come out of nowhere to do her beck and call. And the really sad part is, although it is evil and wicked, women know about The Snap and enjoy using it as a weapon against those of the weaker gender.

The following shows the danger of The Snap.

Man: (Thinking about how bad his Spring Fever really is, watches a very attractive lady walk by. He thinks about how his Spring Fever just got worse.)

Woman: (Snaps fingers and man does three albino squirrel flips to where she is.) "Would you like to buy me a car?"

Man: (Slobbering like a culture over an omelette on a four-lane highway.) "Uh, sure."

Men, for God's sake, beware of The Snap.

Finally, there is The Smell. The Smell is how women dominate the battle of the sexes. Women typically smell better than most men. Women are cleaner, have softer skin and take more pride in their appearance.

Men can smell "good." Then again, most men's "great" smell is something that will flame up with a cigarette lighter and a heavy dose of Mexican food.

The sexes are so different, it's hard to believe we get along at all.

Men get better pay for the same jobs. Men don't have a career glass ceiling to worry about. And men are, at times, insensitive to everyone and everything.

But we are still suckers for a woman's affection.

Women are the champions in the battle of the sexes and, no matter how hard some men try, women will be victorious in the end. They pull the strings to the heart like a puppet master, and that's not so bad — especially if they have Spring Fever.

Editor's Note: Ryan Craig is a senior public relations major from Allegra.



The Herald's Version of TUG...

♦ Letters to the editor

Support policy change

We've broken down walls that divided a city and country. We've brought down a curtain made of iron; we've watched technology explode into mind-boggling equations and connected people and countries from opposite ends of the earth, and yet Western is still debating over whether or not homosexuals have basic human rights.

Come on Western, it's time to join the 20th century. This is a state-supported institution where all people are supposed to have rights, and in case we've forgotten — or perhaps never learned — homosexuals are people, too.

I find it absolutely appalling that not only does Western not have an anti-discrimination policy for sexual preference, but that it took a heated debate in the Student Government Association and a slim 13-12 victory to even suggest one at all. Are we really so backward that we let our fear of what we don't understand harm those who are different than ourselves?

In the article "SGA passes policy by slim margin" in the April 17 issue of the Herald, Andy Gailor condemns the decision saying the policy doesn't represent the opinion of "most of our constituency" and that "the real winners are only a handful." Of course they're only a handful; that's why they are a minority. That's precisely why we need to protect them. If we always did exactly what the majority wanted, we'd still be living in a world contaminated with

slavery and there would be no such thing as basic human rights unless you were an elitist white male.

In the same article, David Apple goes on to say, "we really need to look to see if there's really discrimination." Aren't we forgetting that the purpose of an anti-discrimination policy is to protect people by preventing discrimination? Without those two simple words — "sexual orientation" — written in black and white in Western's policy, people can be denied positions and privileges simply because of who they are attracted to.

What kind of justice is this? Whatever happened to the pursuit of happiness? In the words of Dan Hieb in his April 17 commentary, "Homosexuals do not have victims. They are the victims." It's past time Western acknowledges its obscene bigotry and protect the innocent against ignorance and illusion.

Shiloh Avery
senior from Ann Arbor, Mich.

Editorial correct

I would like to respond to the editorial in Tuesday's edition of the Herald titled, "SGA elections: Send in the clones."

As someone who is intimately familiar with the election process, I would have to say the Herald hit the nail right on the head. Many members of the Student Government Association still view the election process as little more than a popularity contest, not a legitimate election for a legitimate office. This high school mentality has done a

great deal of damage to the organization, as the leaders who are elected search the position out of popularity rather than running on issues that matter.

When I initially talked to many of the candidates about what issues they would run on, their responses were, "It's just student government. Do I really need to run on issues?" I find that mentality extremely insulting; I am a student who can easily name 10 issues I'd like to see acted upon. Rather than being concerned about issues, the members of SGA want to make sure everybody is friends after the election and that the election stays "positive."

I know that a year ago, I ran in an election where neither candidate was afraid to speak their mind or step on each other's toes. As a result of this, after the election we all worked together to enact issues talked about by both sides. Because of that, I'm proud to say that SGA has done more in the last 10 months than I have seen in my four years at Western.

What will happen next year? Regardless of which candidate wins, we will probably go back to the pre-Kristen Miller days where every vote is unanimous and no one wants to take the heat for what's right. But whoever the next president is, I challenge you: follow in Kristen Miller's footsteps. Make the dialogue matter; write legislation that helps students. And remember that the student body is not just your No. 1 concern — it's your only concern.

Rick Malek
Bowling Green senior

Clinton's plan concerns welfare moms in school

BY RISA BRIM

She doesn't sleep in until noon and send her children outside in dirty diapers while she watches her soaps. She doesn't walk through the mall in three-inches-in-diameter pink curlers and bunny slippers. And she doesn't anxiously await for a brown envelope to reach her mailbox so she can buy cigarettes and get her hair and nails done.

Beaver Dam senior Gina Owens said she is just the opposite of what some people believe welfare recipients are like.

"People try to pigeon-hole every welfare mother into stereotypes and say we're lazy or that we're bad mothers and that we have babies every year," Owens said. "Those things aren't true for all of us."

Owens does volunteer work, often goes without the basic necessities so her 4-year-old son, Damon, can have the best, maintains a 3.0 grade-point average and got her tubes tied so she couldn't have another baby she couldn't afford.

Owens, now 29, entered the welfare program about five years ago after she became pregnant with Damon.

"Damon's father told me to either have an abortion or raise the baby on my own," Owens said.

She wanted to be closer to her family in Ohio County, so she went to Owensboro's Birthright Center, a place for young, unwed mothers.

At the center, Owens was introduced to the many programs available to women in her situation. They helped her to get food stamps so she could feed her son and Section 8 housing, which allows her rent payments to be based on her income.

Before she became pregnant, Owens worked two full-time jobs and up to 60 hours a week.

"I worked as a bartender and as a receptionist," Owens said. "I

knew that if I worked all those hours and made minimum wage, I wouldn't be able to care for my child and I didn't want my son to be raised in a bar."

So like 60 other mothers on welfare in Warren County, Owens decided to go to school. She attended Owensboro Community College then trans-

ferred to Western.

"I felt like I had a better chance of making a better life for me and for my son this way," she said.

Supported by welfare and the occasional child support check from her ex-boyfriend, Owens will graduate next year.

"I knew it would be difficult when I started out, but I figured it would be worth it in the end."

But Owens now has a new fear. Like many mothers on welfare, the new public assistance reforms are threatening her around-the-corner success.

According to the welfare reform bill, which went into effect in October, much of the new plan is left up to state governments. Each county, however, could have different interpretations of the state's plan. The overall state plan requires that recipients work at least 20 hours a week at designated job sites or lose up to 25 percent of their benefits. The national plan sets a five-year limit on the time parents and children can receive assistance, effective for their lifetimes.

Millie Jessup, president of Women in Transition, said the new plan could have a devastating effect on students who

receive government assistance.

"(President Bill) Clinton's plan says that these women have to work at least 20 hours a week or their essential benefits like food stamps, housing and child care will be cut," Jessup said. "For women like Gina, this can be scary because they have to divide their time between full-

time hours at school, a child or several children, housework, commute time and study time."

Jessup recently spoke at an open forum before Kentucky Commissioner John Clayton, along with representatives from Community Action, Life Skills and the Welfare Jobs Program. She urged officials to give special consideration to mothers and fathers who are attending Western.

"We are asking the Department of Health and Human Services to allow students who are making satisfacto-

ry academic progress enough time to complete their degrees and to count their school hours as work hours," she said.

Jessup said she believes the latter will allow the women to work in jobs related to their career goals, to fit work hours into school hours and to cut down transportation time.

Luther Hughes, assistant to the vice president for Academic Affairs, also attended the forum and pledged the university's support for students receiving public assistance.

"We are willing to do everything we can to help these students fulfill the new work requirements, whether it be with a work study program or by counting volunteer hours," Hughes said. "We believe that welfare mothers at Western are special because they have responsibilities above and beyond those of the average student."

Hughes said decisions about the matter are receiving attention because Western needs to have its plan ready by December.

"I believe that by getting an education, these mothers and fathers can become successful as individuals and more productive members of society," Hughes said.

Both Owens and Jessup said they are angered by the apparent insensitivity of politicians.

Jessup said many lawmakers "maintain stereotypes that just don't fit most women."

"They make it seem as though millions upon millions of our budget is spent up on welfare," she said. "Actually, welfare only gets about one-tenth of a penny of every dollar earned."

"The military and corporations get way more than that."

Owens has her own suggestions for cutting down on the number of welfare recipients.

"My biggest problem with reform is that they are laying blame on the women for having and keeping the babies," Owens said. "They should make dead-beat dads more responsible for the time they should be spending with their kids."

"If they made Damon's father pay for 12 hours of the day that he's not here for his son instead of half the rent, utilities and food, I wouldn't need welfare."

No matter what, Owens will continue working for her degree.

"I don't want to quit," she says. "I'm afraid of what it will do to me and what it will do to my son."

She lives by one philosophy. "Being poor and on welfare isn't horrible. It just takes longer to get what you want and where you want to be."



"We believe that welfare mothers at Western are special because they have responsibilities above and beyond those of the average student."

— Luther Hughes
assistant to the vice president, Academic Affairs

Forensics team upset with runner-up spot

BY STEPHANIE SIRIA

Western's forensics team is accustomed to winning championships. Last weekend, however, they had to settle for second best.

Western placed second overall in a national debate competition at Ball State University after successfully winning the three other national competitions they competed in this year.

Forensics Director Judy Woodring said it's somewhat of a disappointment.

"We set our goal to win first place," Woodring said. "We didn't achieve it so we're unhappy about that."

Woodring said the competition is composed of four divisions of large and small entries. Western was entered in the large category for schools with more than 40 entries.

Woodring said the fourth national title would have been an unprecedented one for any forensics team in the nation.

"No one has ever won all four competitions in the same year," she said.

The major winner from the Western's team was Pewee Valley sophomore Doug Mory, who was runner-up in a debate category. He lost in the final round on a 3-2 decision to a participant from Ohio State.

"It's very exciting and a great honor to place so high in the nation," Mory said. "I was a little disappointed to lose by only three points though."

Woodring said Mory is a national champion who has won two previous competitions, but this one was still a letdown for

the team.

"We felt we should have been first," Woodring said. "Many people are satisfied with second place in the nation, but we aren't."

Courtney Blakenship, a junior from Gallatin, Tenn., said second place is just a reminder that the team has to work a little harder.

"It took a lot of dedication and hard work," she said. "That's what makes it difficult when it goes unrewarded."

Shelbyville freshman Kerri Richardson said the loss hurts, but it won't pull the team down for next year.

"It feels kind of numb right now, but we're going to come back with a vengeance next year," Richardson said. "Having only two losses is nothing to be ashamed of, but it's disappointing to have them come at the end of the year."

Lexington freshman Josh Barker said even though he couldn't go to the competition, he still felt the loss all the same.

"This is the one everyone wants to win," Barker said. "From what I heard, they felt the judges were unqualified to judge certain events this year."

Although the team placed second, Woodring said the team's effort was excellent.

"It was the team effort that got us there," she said.

Mory said this was a competition where if several factors had gone differently the outcome would have been different.

"If just one round had turned out in our favor then we would have won," he said. "We're going to use this as a stepping stone to reach greater heights next year."

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Have a Great Summer!

Diverse music, styles shown in dance

BY REBECCA LENZ

From classical ballet to jazz and even the music of Bruce Springsteen, the Russell Miller Theatre will be filled with rhythmic dance movements until Sunday.

The theatre and dance department's dance company is putting on "An Evening of Dance." It started Tuesday night and runs through Sunday.

Bob Boross, theatre and dance assistant professor and one of the two choreographers for the performance, said the show will have an array of styles.

"We're ready for it to happen," he said. "There's enough to satisfy a long range of taste."

Act I consists of 10 individual performances ranging from solo

acts to numbers involving almost all of the members. Act II has eight performances.

A couple are love stories and some have narrative and singing

"It's pretty much a full year project. It's the biggest thing we do ... 100 percent dancing."

— Bob Boross
choreographer

and others have stories told through dance.

The 25 members of the dance company have been preparing all year. There are

classes that they take to learn the dances that they do at the performance.

"It's pretty much a full year project," Boross said. "It's the biggest thing we do ... 100 percent dancing."

Nashville freshman Melanie Baltz said she enjoyed the show. She was there in support of a sorority sister who is dancing in the show.

"It's fun to watch the diversity," she said. "I've been really impressed so far."

There is a small orchestra that plays some of the music for the dancers including a piano, cello and drums.

Nashville junior Jason Poncirollo said his favorite performance was in the second act. It's called "The Crapshooter's

Ballet." This was an all-male performance where they acted out a craps game while incorporating dance and a few lines of narrative.

"I thought it was very good," Poncirollo said. "I will definitely come to more."

Boross said there are only six men in the dance company so they were the most busy of everyone because they were needed in most of the performances.

"A Night of Dance" begins at 8 p.m. tonight, tomorrow and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday. The cost for students, senior citizens and children is \$5. For everyone else, tickets are \$7.

For more information call 745-5845 or for tickets call 745-3121. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for the same price.

Warren symposium Sunday

BY SHANNON BACK

There will be a celebration of poetry and history across campus Sunday.

The Robert Penn Warren Symposium has been held every April at Western for the past 10 years to recognize the birthday and life of the Kentucky writer.

The all-day event will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a fund-raising brunch in Garrett Ballroom. The brunch costs \$30 per person.

Riley Handy, library special collections department head, said \$15 will go to support the Center for Robert Penn Warren Studies at Western and the rest will pay for the day's activities.

People from around the country will discuss their studies on Warren during the brunch. Handy said the brunch requires reservations but the rest of the day is free.

Following the brunch is a symposium in Gerard Auditorium in Garrett Center at 2 p.m. It will highlight several readings of Warren's short fiction.

Handy said the main highlight of this year's symposium is readings from Warren's "The Circus in the Attic," the story of John Wesley Venable who put together a toy circus in the attic of his Hopkinsville home. This year is the 50th anniversary of the story.

After the symposium the group will walk to Cherry Hall, Room 100, for a free reception.

Handy said vans will then take guests to the Robert Penn Warren Library at the Kentucky Building, where they will see original animals, wagons and figures handmade for John Wesley Venable's circus in the attic.

"We think it's interesting because the title is 'Circus in the

Attic,' and we have part of the circus here for people to see," he said.

Venable memorials were loaned by The Pennyrite Area Museum in Hopkinsville. The items will be on view at the Warren Library until June 1, said Handy.

English Professor Joseph Millichap has attended all 10 of the Warren symposiums.

"The public part is an outreach to the university," he said. "Warren is Kentucky's best dramatic literature writer."

Handy said this is Western's way of keeping Warren's story alive.

"Even though he is dead, he has a tremendous influence on literature," he said. "His works live on and give opportunities for writers to learn and be inspired too by what he's done."

ValuJet investigator to speak Monday

BY ROCHELLE DAVIS

The investigator in charge of the May 1996 ValuJet crash in the Florida Everglades will speak at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Institute for Economic Development.

Sally Ray, communication and broadcasting assistant professor, said Gregory Feith was the spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, an independent federal investigation agency.

"He will be talking about communicating with the media while you are in the hot seat,"

Ray said.

The public affairs department at the National Transportation Safety Board said Feith manages a team of aviation specialists who investigate airplane accidents in the United States and abroad.

They said Feith is also the U.S. accredited representative for foreign airplane accidents and the liaison for the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Ray interviewed Feith during Spring Break in Washington, D.C. The interview was part of her study on how airlines communicate after a major crisis.

"He is a dynamic fellow," Ray

said. "He is full of energy."

Feith is a graduate of Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University, Ray said.

The public affairs department for the safety board said Feith received the nickname "mud stud" from the ValuJet crash because of his reliable work and the swampy working conditions in the Florida Everglades.

Ray said Feith has also been in some made-for-television movies. He played in the NBC Movie of the Week: "Crash - The Mystery of Flight 1501."

Feith's speech will be free to the public.

DOOR: Committee has 'sense of what we want'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

does not allow for action to be taken in secret. "Action taken means a collective decision, a commitment or promise to make a positive or negative decision, or an actual vote by a majority of the members of the governmental body," according to the statute.

However, when reporters were allowed back into the meeting about 15 minutes later, the

committee had already made a collective decision.

All Regent Burns Mercer had to say upon reconvening in open session was that no decision had been made and the proposal would be discussed Tuesday with the board.

However, Wilkins later said the committee had "decided not to decide" while in closed session.

Mercer, chairman of the committee, said it had planned to

make its recommendation to the board on Tuesday but won't because of "legal technicalities."

The "legal technicality" was that the board could not make a decision without releasing the name to the public, Wilkins said.

Mercer said the board didn't make a decision.

"We know what we think we want the board to decide ... we have a sense of what we want, but can't make it official," he said.

News briefs

Dorm dedication

Zacharias Hall, formerly known as New Coed Hall, will be dedicated at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The dorm was named in honor of former Western President Donald Zacharias. He served the university from 1979-1985 and is now serving as president of Mississippi State University.

Jeff Younglove, University Relations special events coordinator, said many guests are expected.

He said the Board of Regents and other Western officials will

be attending, as well as the governor of Mississippi, Fob James. Younglove said Gov. Paul Patton was invited, but had other plans.

He said Zacharias will be speaking at the dedication, as well as Student Regent Kristen Miller, a Louisville senior and president of the Student Government Association.

In addition to speakers, there will be an unveiling of the lettering.

Memorial trees

SGA is inviting everyone to a

dedication ceremony for its Memorial Tree Program on Sunday.

In a small ceremony, the Student Government Association will honor students, faculty and staff who have died during their time at Western.

Students will gather at 4 p.m. between Grise and McLean halls, where President Thomas Meredith will offer opening remarks.

A reception will be held behind McLean following the program.

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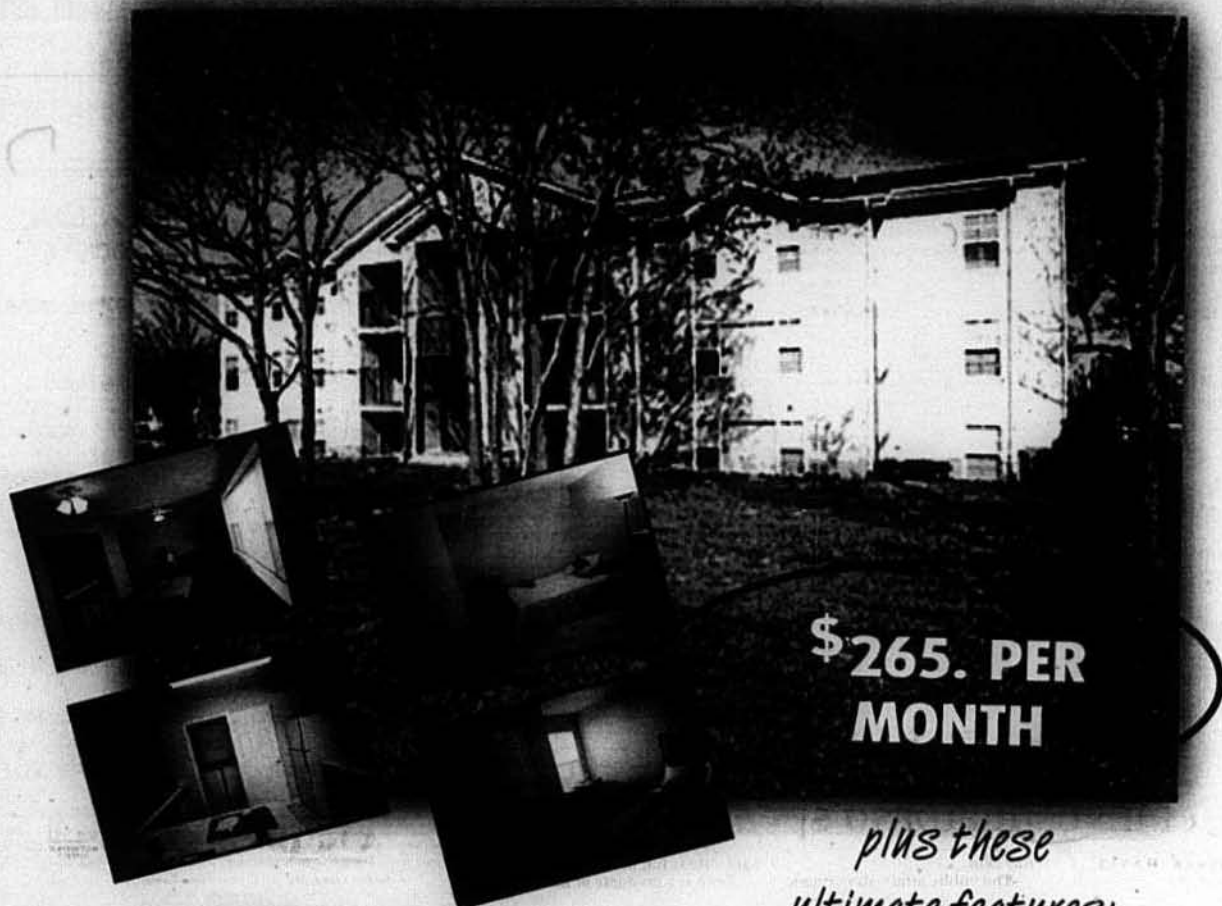
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CHUCK ANGEL (ARTIST BATTLECRY AND DOGS OF WAR #2.3 FROM CRUSADE COMICS)
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Wendy Huisman, sophomore

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Christina Holt, sophomore

"... when I'm not in the clubhouse, I'll be in the pool ... when I'm not in the pool, I'll be in the recreation room ... I don't know when I'll be in the apartment ..."

Angel Page, sophomore

"...although the swimming pool was the major attraction for me, having access to the computer lab is going to be important to my small, personal business..."

Kaylin Ashley, senior



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Chris Stanford/Herald

Kids' play: In Diddle Arena yesterday morning, students from North Warren Elementary School dance to the music of Banana Slug String Band. The band was performing for the children in celebration of Earth Week.

Escort service gets new leader

BY SCHERI ELAINE SMITH

The student escort service, along with its new coordinator, is looking for volunteers.

Steve Marchand, a sophomore from Tell City, Ind., is the new student coordinator.

The former coordinator, Laura Green, left the position. Gordon Turner, adviser of the program, said Green moved on to other things.

"Laura left and Steve approached us," he said.

Marchand said he wanted to help out.

"I just heard about it," he said. "I had always thought about it before."

Marchand said the only problem that he has run into is the small number of student volunteers. However, he went on to say that the program offers incentives to attract more people.

"Volunteers get free bowling and billiards and movies at DUC (Theatre)," Marchand said.

Besides incentives on cam-

pus, the program has also worked out deals with community businesses.

"We've worked out a deal with Arby's where volunteers get 50 percent off food purchases," he said. "Also, Domino's donates a pizza per shift."

But Marchand said those aren't the only advantages of volunteering.

"It's a great way for fraternity members to get volunteer hours," he said.

Marchand, who is a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, said he always wanted to work for the program.

"I like to help people out," he said.

There are currently 16 volunteers who work two shifts. The first shift is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the second is from 9 p.m. to midnight.

"After 12 a.m., the officers resume the escort service," Marchand said.

Radcliff senior Chris Mallon said she enjoys volunteering.

"It is such a good program," she said. "The people we help feel so much safer."

A student may dial 745-3333 if in need of an escort. The volunteers, who escort by walking, accompany students to where they want to go.

"(The service) used to use trucks and stuff, but they don't now," Marchand said. "Since we've been doing walking escorts, the numbers of callers has declined."

Even though the numbers have declined, the service is still being used by students.

He went on to say more people are calling because the temperature is getting warmer.

Turner said even though Western's campus is safe, there is still a need for the escort program.

"There are still some students that are out there that feel uneasy about walking late at night," he said. "Anytime you have a program that helps people to feel safe on campus, there is a need for it."

FEES: Patton's plan could change budget

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

allowing the university to share the cost of air conditioning with others who use the facility is needed.

Meredith defended the spending saying the ag expo center "draws in 100,000 people a year."

Another major part of next year's budget will be \$300,000 for raises to staff of four or more years. There is also a 4 percent merit pool increase for Western employees with an estimated cost of \$2.071 million.

"There's always a need to review salaries," Human Resources Director Tony Glisson said. "We feel very good about where we are."

Melissa Stewart, a modern languages and intercultural studies professor, said she's glad there will be money for raises.

"They've tried to bring salaries up to our benchmark schools, but there is still a lot of ground that needs to be covered," she said. "They have to do what they can to balance the budget and I know that's not easy to do these days."

The regents will also consider a finance committee recommendation to purchase property on the corner of Nashville Road and University Boulevard for \$55,000.

Meredith said the land will be used to build another

Western sign.

"We'll use it as an entrance to the university," he said. "The house will be moved to another location to continue to be used for rental property or taken down."

Mendel expressed some concerns about the purchase.

"If we have to move it, that's another \$10,000 minimum, then we have to renovate it," he said. "If it has asbestos, what would the implications of tearing it down be? We need to put signs at other major entrances to campus before we duplicate signs."

The finance committee also approved a \$20,000 cut in next year's athletics budget. Their usual 3.4 percent increase would give the department \$85,000. Instead, they are only getting \$65,000.

"That was a decision I made," Meredith said. "I don't know how fair it is to athletics, but I sat down with them and asked them to take this \$20,000 cut and obviously they agreed to do it."

Matthew Pope, associate athletics director for business affairs, said the athletics department will "have to live with it."

"We've always had to come up with funds other than what the state allows," he said. "There is only so much to go around. The university does a wonderful job

in providing for athletics."

Dorm rates for next year are also being raised by \$10 per student per semester.

"Look at it like this, \$1,900 a semester will get you a room, full tuition and access to computer labs," Meredith said. "Were talking \$3,900 a year; it's \$38,000 at Vanderbilt (University)."

Jim Ramsey, vice president for Finance and Administration, said the extra money will be used to pay salaries and housing costs such as repairs.

The regents will also consider a committee recommendation to take money out of the university's auxiliary reserve fund to renovate the bookstore.

Ramsey said \$400,000 will pay for improvements in technology and remodeling. This is the first major investment in the bookstore since the 1970s.

The board will meet again June 5 to give final approval to next year's budget, which could change drastically if Gov. Paul Patton's higher education reform plan is passed during a special session of the General Assembly in May.

Ramsey said the governor's plan would translate into an extra \$700,000 for Western next year.

"This budget is not built on any of those changes," Ramsey said.

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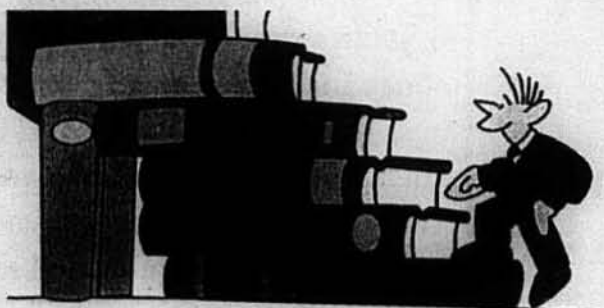
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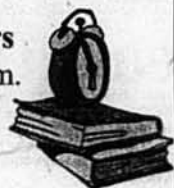
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Mike Sweeney/Herald

While on stage, Cathy Allen, a singer for the Radioactive Flowers, watches as Deborah Short and her son Zachary, both of Bowling Green, wave to the band.

Students celebrate earth with music

BY KELLEY LYNN

From the sweet smell of incense hanging in the air to the rock and roll pouring from the stage, the Earth Day festivities held Tuesday evening in the Garrett Ballroom had a festive air, which is just what promoters wanted, according to Louisville sophomore Amanda Stivers.

"It's a time to celebrate and bring people together," she said.

The event was a mixture of music and environmental education. Henderson junior Chris Wedding, the event promoter, said the format was a good way to reach a new audience.

"People come here because of the bands and they get educated about what they can do and what they should do to preserve our natural resources," Wedding said.

Sean O'Shea, a junior from Winter Haven, Fla., said the "universal" nature of music might make the exchange information easier.

"Music is the one universal thing," O'Shea said. "Everybody knows music and it's the one thing that brings people together. It's a way that we can get people out that aren't really interested in the environment and hopefully we can get them interested."

Wedding said that promoters wanted to show people that conservation is not a big event to be done once a year, but small things average people can do every day.

"It's just small things everybody can do," Wedding said. "At the minimum it's recycling your paper, your aluminum, your glass, your plastics and even your organics. But people also need to keep their cars tuned up and drive less. There's just so many small things people can do."

The event was sponsored by the University Center Board and Free the Planet, Western's con-

servation club.

"We had raised about two to three hundred dollars and the University Center Board gave us the money for the sound equipment," Wedding said. "The bands are playing for free partly because it's a good cause and another reason is they are reaching a whole new audience. Most of these people are under 21 and not able to go to bars yet."

The club is a division of the national chapter of Free the Planet, which is a club dedicated to change through legislation.

"Professor Handy talked to me about starting up an environmental movement here on campus," Stivers said. "I was interested so we found Free the Planet and decided to open up a chap-

ter here at Western. "Their main thing is to work through college campuses on the Internet and we decided to take that and do legislative work even though that's not our main focus. Our main focus is to raise community awareness of environmental issues through education."

While some people feel compelled to bombard environmentalists with derogatory names, Free the Earth members are quick to point out that they are not extremists, but rather, average people that love the environment.

"There are people out there that are gung-ho, save the environment types; but then there's also people like us who are professionals and all of our efforts are going to save the environment," O'Shea said.

"But we aren't going out and preaching to people or slapping hands. We just want to show people how to do their part, and if they call us tree huggers then hey, it doesn't matter. You can never worry about what people will call you."



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Sets, lines and videotape

Students dreaming of Hollywood are testing their talents by making independent films

story by
Brian Mains

photo by
Carrie Pratt

Terrence Moore, a senior from Evansville, Ind., is working on a film for which he wrote the screenplay and is co-directing and co-starring in it. He plans to attend film school in New York in the fall.



Meet "Caleb the Christian Spy," a man on a mission from God.

"Caleb the Christian Spy is a guy who is trying to spread the word of the Lord," Glasgow junior Danny Downing said. "He finds out a televangelist's daughter, Wendy, has been kidnapped by an atheist.

"He decides he is going to try to set the atheist straight while trying to save the televangelist's beautiful daughter."

Romance. Comedy. Drama. These are common themes found in the big glitz of Hollywood movies. But with films and characters like Downing's, it's been proven that these themes can be done — and done well — with small budgets on campus.

"There is no substitute for a good story and good acting," said Cory Lash, a communication and broadcasting associate professor.

Nashville senior Shelley Norfleet agrees with Lash.

"It's like baking a cake," Norfleet said. "You have many ingredients. If something's not right, if something goes wrong, your cake will come out flat. Your movie will also come out flat if somebody's missing

something or this comes out wrong."

All of the ingredients came out just fine in Downing's movie, which won first place for best Drama/Comedy in Western's third annual Film and Video Festival on March 31.

Downing, along with students like Michael Jones and Terrence Moore, are among many who have put time and creativity into entertaining films on campus.

Chasing a dream

Together Jones, a Louisville senior and Moore, a senior from Evansville, Ind., are producing "Chasing the Fool," which was originally a short story Moore adapted into a screenplay.

"I've never done a film before," said Moore, who is currently starring in, co-directing and co-producing his first film with Jones. "There is nothing like the joy of inexperience."

They decided to work together on a full-length film after seeing some productions other independent filmmakers had done.

"We went to a film festival last year in Louisville

and decided it (making a movie) was something we could do," Moore said.

Moore said his interest in being creative and expressing himself began as a child.

"I was a high-strung child, so my mother got me to channel my imagination and occasional stretching of the truth," Moore said. "She told me if I put it down on paper, people would enjoy it more than if I'm telling it to their face."

He said one of the first plays he wrote was performed when he was still in the fifth grade.

Jones, who has done some short films before, said he has had an interest in making films ever since he could remember.

So far, he has done smaller productions such as three minute skits. This movie will be his first feature length film.

"It's kind of a learning process for me," Jones said. "Right now I'm learning to deal with people and getting them to do what I want them to do without stepping on their toes."

SEE FILMS, PAGE 14

FILMS: Students aiming for film schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

One of the people that Jones has had to work beside and learn how to communicate with is Norfleet.

Norfleet plays Kim in "Chasing the Fool." She said the basic outline deals with a man who is searching for something he already has.

"My character is getting married," Norfleet said. "My fiancé is having an affair with three other women. The reason why he is having this affair is because, in the relationship, he feels that something is needed — something is missing."

Norfleet said one woman has compassion, another has passion and the third has an undefined quality that the main character of the story still yearns for.

"In the end, he finds out that everything was there all along but it's too late because I find out," Norfleet said. "He ends up empty-handed."

Jones and Moore said they originally had a cast of seven, but it grew to 17 throughout the filming. Jones said such a large cast almost led to things getting out of hand, especially with scheduling.

"One of the girls playing one of the lead roles had a problem back home and had to leave," Jones said. "Next time, I would do better at checking out background activities."

As the crew grew, so did the length of the movie. It was originally 25 minutes long. Right now, it's about 90 minutes.

"It just blossomed," Moore said.

The film has been shot on video tape to save cost and allow Jones to try different ideas.

"It allows more freedom," Jones said.

Jones said the freedom comes with the low cost of video tapes, which are approximately \$10,

while film and its processing can cost way beyond a student's budget.

Jones said because of the cost of film, he could only afford to shoot a scene once.

"You can afford to make mistakes with video," he said.

Costs for "Chasing the Fool" have also been kept down by borrowing equipment from the broadcasting department.

"The department provides equipment for students," Lash said.

**"Within three years
I hope to be in the market
in any aspect of it,
whether it be writing
scripts or sweeping the
set."**

— Terrence Moore
senior from Evansville, Ind.

The one prerequisite for students to borrow filming equipment such as cameras and lamps is that a student be enrolled in broadcasting classes through the department.

Jones said he is using the department's equipment for his film, which is an independent studies project.

For this reason, Moore said money has not been a problem. The fact that all the actors have volunteered for the film also helps, Jones said.

Norfleet said the lack of pay has not been a problem for her.

"Two people came up with the idea to do this movie," Norfleet said. "Everybody came together and helped them out knowing they weren't going to get paid."

She said what the crew did get

out of their hard work was a feeling of family and a stronger knowledge of what they want to do in the future.

The Future

Jones and Moore will be graduating in May. Downing still has another year of learning to do at Western and Norfleet has decided to start directing. All three have hopes of using the movie knowledge they gained to help get them into a film school.

"I'm moving to New York in July," Moore said. "Within three years I hope to be into the market in any aspect of it, whether it be writing scripts or sweeping the set."

In the meantime, Moore said he hopes to get into "any film school which will give (him) money."

Downing said film-making is enjoyable for now, but he has no definite long-term goals.

He has just completed another project, which is yet to be titled. He said "Caleb the Christian Spy" has been his favorite creation so far and he plans to make more films at Western.

"I plan to continue making films in college and see if I continue enjoying what I'm doing," he said. "Maybe I'll go to theater graduate school or film school."

Norfleet said her acting involvement in "Chasing the Fool" has had a great effect on her.

She said after seeing Jones orchestrate the movie, she decided she would someday like to do the same.

Jones will be applying to film schools in the fall as well. His experience as a director in "Chasing the Fool" has helped him define what directing is all about.

"It's like a puzzle in that you're behind the scenes and you take bits and pieces and put it together until it's one magnificent part."

Horror flick nothing to 'Scream' about

◆ Courtney Cox,
Drew Barrymore,
Neve Campbell and
David Arquette star
★ 1/2

BY SARAH RAMSEY

If you think horror films have a chance of happening in real life or you take the superstitions they impose to be serious, "Scream" is for you.

For those of you that missed this movie during its first release, consider yourself lucky. Earlier this month, the movie was released for a second time, and I cannot figure out why.

Neve Campbell plays the role of a sweet and innocent young woman who is about to experience the absolute worst week of her life. But isn't that usual for the fair maiden in a horror movie?

This movie uses sick humor to make fun of people who believe in horror films.

The plot goes something like this: two people are murdered, students are shown reacting to the deaths, more victims are sought and tormented, a party is thrown and the killer is caught.

Sound familiar?

Has there been a horror film yet that has deviated from the basic plot of a horror film? The typical stereotypes and superstitions are almost predictable in this movie.

If you have seen one horror film, you have seen them all. Only the actors, setting and methods of murder are different.

Only the first 15 minutes of

the movie are somewhat scary. If you have a weak stomach, you'll make it through the few bumpy spots with ease.

The beginning is well-developed and highly intense. Then it hits bottom. The plot is extremely slow in developing. The actors talk and act like movie/television teenagers instead of real-life teenagers.

Please, we have more common sense than what is depicted in the story. Why would I open the door if a stalker is supposedly on the front porch?

Drew Barrymore was the only character who displayed a realistic role. It is such a shame she had to be the second person killed in the movie.

A Lois Lane duplicate appears as Courtney Cox, joining the scene as a daring news reporter who always finds her way into the middle of every situation. If you want a noisy reporter always getting into trouble, you would enjoy "Lois and Clark: The Adventures of Superman" much, much better.

The movie leads you to believe that the killer is one character. Then they start throwing out random clues making almost everyone else the killer. This movie leaves you guessing until the confession by the killers.

Horror movies are supposed to be scary, not have you laughing until you cry. This movie is more of a sick comedy than a horror flick.

How this movie got a best movie nomination for the 1997 MTV Movie Awards is beyond my comprehension.

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Sports

Murrie awaits game No. 1,000

Skipper deserves time out

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — A chartered bus sipped diesel in a deserted parking lot Tuesday night.

The bus and its sweaty passengers could wait. Joel Murrie was talking baseball inside Evansville's 85-year-old time



Kevin Kelly

Commentary

machine — Bosse Field.

After 998 games as Western's baseball coach, you learn how to punish a team when it loses a game it shouldn't have. The bus is Murrie's version of a time-out corner for 18- to 22-year-olds.

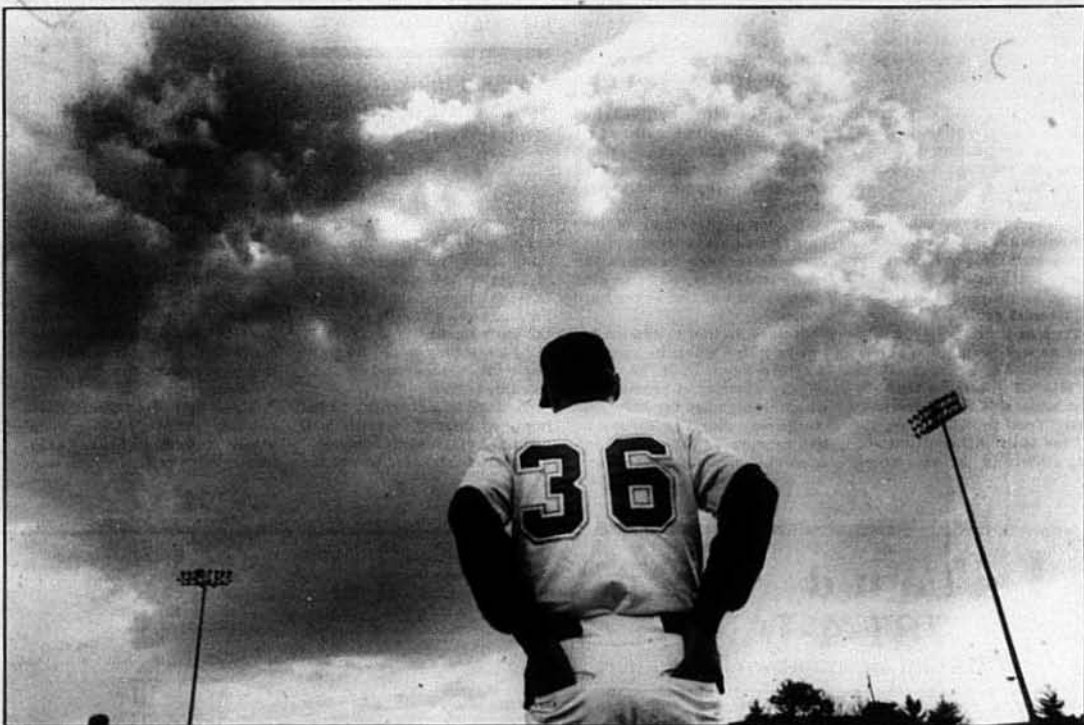
Against Louisiana Tech on Saturday at Denes Field, this 43-year-old husband and father of two will coach his 1,000th game at Western.

To put that into perspective, it took Hilltopper basketball coaching legend E.A. Diddle 40 seasons — at an average of 26 games per year — to do what Murrie will accomplish in 18 seasons.

"What Joel has done is very remarkable in this day and time," said Jim Pickens, who won 180 games as Western's baseball coach from 1968-1976. "Joel came here as a young boy and has kept the stamina, the strength and the get-up-and-go about him to go through that number of ball games."

But Tuesday after a 10-7 loss to Evansville, Murrie opted not to hype the upcoming milestone. From the top step of the third base dugout, he purposely refocused his attention somewhere upon the empty field where he lost for the 433rd time.

SEE SKIPPER, PAGE 17



Chris Stanford/Herald

Hilltopper coach Joel Murrie watches over Denes Field as his players warm up to take on Murray State for his 998th career game last night. Murrie will hit the 1,000 mark against Louisiana Tech on Saturday.

Coach satisfied just 'being on the field'

BY JERRY BREWER

Nestled in a 28-year-old dugout, Joel Murrie sits on a green, paint-chipped bench and watches a water sprinkle across Denes Field as the smell of freshly-cut grass creates a pleasant aroma to the 43-year-old coach.

The baseball field is where Murrie is comfortable. It is where he has spent much of his life, both as a player and a coach.

He admits baseball does get frustrating at times, but the diamond still creates a sharp, piercing poke at Murrie's heart.

"You almost have to be a

baseball person to understand the tranquility of sitting in the dugout and watching the water sprinklers rotate all the way around, and nurturing the grass and watching it grow," Murrie said. "I know it sounds crazy to people outside of the game, but you show me a good baseball coach and I'll show you someone who will sit for hours and watch a sprinkler go over the field."

"Nothing is more satisfying than being on the field. Unfortunately, out of a 24-hour day, you're only able to be on the field for three or four."

Saturday, this passionate baseball man will coach his 1,000th career game at Western

and as a collegiate coach. During game two of Western's series with Louisiana Tech this weekend, he is scheduled to reach a milestone.

But the mild-mannered coach doesn't want any recognition. Ask Murrie about personal achievement and his fire doesn't burn as much.

His head dips a bit as he speaks.

"It's only an issue when you bring it up," Murrie said of coaching in 1,000 games. "I don't want it to be an issue. That's not what's important. That's not why I'm showing up Saturday. Individual honors and accomplishments are not what it's all about."

"One thousand games just means I've been here for 1,000 games and I've had the opportunity to get to know a lot of fine young men and their families. When it does happen, I'll just take the lineup card to home plate and get my players prepared to play."

In 18 years, Murrie has never missed a game as Western's coach.

Western assistant coach Dan Mosier, Murrie's assistant since 1990 and a catcher for Murrie's 1982 and 1983 teams, said he admires Murrie for his durability.

SEE COACH, PAGE 17

Western's H-O-R-S-E champ to join Macy at Morehead

BY GEORGE ROBINSON

Darrin Horn has spent the past six years with the Hilltopper men's basketball program.

Horn, a product of Bates Creek High School in Lexington, scored 1,115 points for Western from 1991-95.

He's been an All-Sun Belt Conference team member and an Academic All-American, and has helped lead his team to conference regular season and tournament titles as well as three NCAA Tournament appearances.

For the last two years, he has been an assistant coach at Western.

But Horn's real legacy ultimately will not be those accomplishments. Instead, he may be remembered because no one could beat him in H-O-R-S-E.

"Maybe coach (Matt) Kilcullen will hire a coach that the players can beat," Horn said. "I love to talk trash."

Horn will be taking that game to green-

er pastures at Morehead State University under new head coach and ex-Kentucky Wildcat Kyle Macy.

"This is definitely a step up," Horn said. "I wasn't able to do any off-campus recruiting at Western and taking this job will allow me to do that."

Western wanted a chance to match Morehead's financial package, but they instead allowed Horn to be released so he could advance his career, Kilcullen said.

"This is the next step for him," Kilcullen said. "He gets to go out on the road full time and do some things that we weren't able to do for him."

Macy contacted Horn two weeks ago about the opening. It was an opportunity that Horn couldn't pass up.

"I've known Kyle a long time," Horn

said. "I used to attend his basketball camps when I was 10 and 11 years old and he's been here to Western to help me with my shooting when I was playing."

Horn, a native of Lexington, was 6 years old when Macy led the Kentucky Wildcats to the 1978 national championship.

"I really don't remember too much about that year, but I knew about some of the players like Macy," Horn said.

Horn said he has returned to Lexington several times to referee and coach at Macy's

camp. Now he'll follow Macy to Morehead — in a new capacity.

"This coaching staff is going to be just like a team atmosphere," Macy said. "I don't believe in limiting any of my coach-

es as to what they want to do. He'll do a lot of recruiting and he'll be doing other things for us — whatever is needed."

Macy's relationship with Horn made his decision to hire Horn easier.

"Darrin is an outstanding individual on and off the court, and since I know him and his family so well that gave me the inside track," Macy said.

Horn sees this move as a natural part of life.

"There comes a time when you need to make changes in your life," Horn said. "This is something that can only strengthen my career. Plus my wife's excited, so that's even better."

Horn's last official day as a Hilltopper will be tomorrow.

In other words, this is the Toppers' last chance to beat him in H-O-R-S-E.

"I wanted to let the players know that they hardly ever could beat me in that game," Horn said. "And now it might be too late to ever try."

Kolessine hopes to remain on the Hill

By Scott Sisco

Although his playing days at Western are over, Andrew Kolessine may be back on the Hill next year.

The senior from Liepaja, Latvia, may come back as an assistant coach for the men's tennis team.

Even if he doesn't, he has already been a great influence on his teammates, according to freshman Brad Herrera, Kolessine's doubles partner.

Herrera said Kolessine would take care of team problems or go to men's tennis coach Jeff True as a spokesman for the team.

He said Kolessine was always there for the other guys with encouragement when they lost a point on the court or made a bad grade in a class.

"He was the person to talk to," Herrera said.

True said he is a great student as well as a good tennis player.

"When I think of a true student athlete, Andrew comes to mind," True said.

True said an excellent student athlete is one who excels

on the court and in the classroom.

Kolessine was the No. 1 singles and doubles player for Western this year and has a 2.9 grade-point average, which he thinks will be higher this semester.

Kolessine only had two years of eligibility when he came to Western because he played two years at Liepaja Teacher's Training Academy in Latvia. He was studying to be a math teacher.

True said he wishes Kolessine had two more years to play tennis at Western because he is just now getting used to playing on the harder surface.

Kolessine played on soft clay courts in Latvia. He said the main difference between the two surfaces is that the clay courts aren't as fast as the hard courts.

Kolessine had to change his entire game when he came to Western because of the speed of play. Instead of consistency, which won games for Kolessine on the clay courts in Europe, he had to work on his volleys and serves to win matches.

When he is away from the court, Kolessine enjoys music (his favorite band is Nirvana) and in Latvia he played guitar in a band.

He also enjoyed swimming in the Baltic Sea, which was with-in walking distance of his home.

Homesickness crept up on him last weekend when the

only thing that saddened Kolessine at the tournament.

He didn't want his career to end with a loss, but Western finished last out of eight teams. Although it bothered Kolessine, it didn't affect him as much as it would have six years ago.

Kolessine said when he was younger tennis was his life and it would have upset him more.

"Now I understand it's only a small part of my life," Kolessine said.

In 1992, Kolessine came down with a stomach disease that kept him off the court for a year and a half.

He concentrated on his studies while he recovered and also took up the guitar. He almost didn't return to the game that consumed most of his childhood because doctors told him he would never play again.

But in the summer of 1993, he was invited to play for his tennis club's team at the Latvia Nationals. After his team won, they went on to the European Championship.

Upon returning to his home country, he played in several other tournaments. Later, Louisville's tennis coach sent

Kolessine a letter asking him to play tennis as a Cardinal.

Louisville got a last-minute transfer that left them without a spot for him. The Louisville coach called True, who was looking for a No. 1 player, and told him about Kolessine.

And so began Kolessine's career at Western.

It's a career he wants to continue, but they won't know for sure until he and True find out if the athletics department will pay part of Kolessine's tuition.

Kolessine said most teams the Hilltoppers played this season had at least one assistant coach. He said it was hard for True to handle the team alone this season.

Western's women's team had two assistants this year and they had one of their best seasons (10-7) under women's tennis coach Laura Hudspeth.

Kolessine attributed some of that success to the assistant coaches.

If things work out, he'll have a chance to help the men's tennis team duplicate the women's success.

"I hope Coach True and I will be a good team."

"When I think of a true student athlete, Andrew comes to mind."

**— Jeff True
men's tennis coach**

team went to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Kolessine saw several Latvian players, some of whom he has known for 15 years, at the tournament.

"I knew they would be going home this summer and I won't," he said.

Instead of returning to his home country, Kolessine will be taking classes this summer.

But homesickness wasn't the

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Comments from Dr. Donald W. Zacharias

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Institute for Economic Development, 2355 Nashville Road.
A shuttle service to the dedication will be located
at the lobby entrance.

COACH: Making history

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

"The thing that has always impressed me about coach is that he never lets the highs get too high or the lows get too low," Mosier said. "If you do, this game will beat you up. He gets excited after wins and upset about losses. But it's always on an even keel. He's taught me a lot about that. When I first started coaching, I couldn't sleep at night when we lost a game."

But don't mistake the mellow temperament and the modesty for a lack of passion and will to win.

Murrie enjoyed success as a coach from the beginning.

During his first season in 1980, a 25-year-old Murrie, with a full head of hair and a mustache, posted a 47-13-1 record, the most sterling record of his coaching career and the best record in school history.

Western won the Ohio Valley Conference that year and went to the NCAA South Regional before losing to Florida State.

Murrie then led his 1981 and 1982 teams to OVC championships and his 1985 and 1988 teams to Sun Belt Conference West Division championships.

"I used to think I was a lot smarter than all the coaches around when I was 25," said Murrie, who has a 560-433-5 record as Western's coach. "Now, even if I think that way, I don't say it. That's youthfulness. The more you're around the game, the more you realize you don't know everything."

Murrie hasn't coached a conference champion since 1988, and that drives him. His players have noticed.

"He demands a lot out of the team," senior third baseman Josh Patton said. "He never lets me settle for being mediocre. He's always pushed me to do better."

18 years with Murrie

- ◆ First win — vs. Evansville, 4-2 (1980)
- ◆ 100th win — vs. Ind. St.-Evansville, 12-3 (1982)
- ◆ 200th win — vs. Sanford, 5-2 (1985)
- ◆ 300th win — vs. Ala.-Birmingham, 7-5 (1988)
- ◆ 400th win — vs. Evansville, 5-2 (1991)
- ◆ 500th win — vs. Southeast Missouri, 10-4 (1995)

Coaching Honors

- ◆ 1980 — OVC Coach of the Year
- ◆ 1980 — NCAA South Region Coach of the Year
- ◆ 1981 — OVC Coach of the Year (North Division)
- ◆ 1985 — Sun Belt Coach of the Year
- ◆ Best season — 47-13-1 in 1980

"He also cares a lot about each person on the team. I mean, he'll probably do anything for anybody on this team. And he'll continue doing that for the rest of his career."

Evansville coach Jim Brownlee, who has coached in 1,008 games with the Aces, poked fun at the feat Murrie will accomplish Saturday.

"To coach 1,000 games, that just means he's old," Brownlee said. "In this day and age, there's a 'been-fired' and there's a 'waiting-to-get-fired.' If you can stay at a place for 18 years, that's a tribute to your program, your kids and what you've done. We're all humble guys as coaches, but Coach Murrie has done a great job at Western."

Barring a weather problem, this Saturday a coach with gray, balding hair will step onto Denes Field around noon and coach his 1,000th game.

For Murrie, just being on that field is what will make Saturday special.

"It's the best time of day, but the most frustrating," Murrie

said. "You get the best rush, but it will also humble you and bring you down. Then the sun will come up the next day, and you'll go back on the field and see your club come back from nine runs down. Then you'll forget about the 19 runs you gave up the day before. It's a vicious cycle. It's a roller coaster. It's difficult to control."

"But that's just a part of my life."



Thursday, May 1, 1997 is the last day for students to cash personal checks at the ticket window at Downing University Center.

Friday, May 2, 1997 is the last day to cash personal checks in the cashier's office in WAB.

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Hilltoppers stung twice in Indiana

BY JERRY BREWER

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — A full moon shined through the closely bunched clouds and put its spotlight around second base at 85-year-old Bosse Field during the eighth inning of Western's 10-7 loss against Evansville on Tuesday.

Evansville senior second baseman Ryan Brownlee, also a preseason All-American, bounced a ground ball toward second base.

Western senior shortstop Dan Grice and freshman second baseman Izzy Santiago both converged on the ball, dove and collided.

A few seconds later, they were lying on their backs.

Grice was left with a stinger, a pinched nerve, in his right shoulder, and Santiago suffered a bruised lower back.

But for 10 minutes, Western's already banged up baseball team saw its season nearly go down with the same force that Grice's and Santiago's bodies did.

"I got pretty quiet in a hurry when I saw what happened," said Western baseball coach Joel Murrie.

Grice and Santiago didn't have much to say either.

"We were trying to feel our pain through," said Santiago, who didn't leave the game and went 2-for-5 against the Aces. "At first, we didn't say anything. Then about 10 seconds later, I asked Dan if he was all right. He said he couldn't feel his right arm."

Grice was taken out of the game, and after a 10-minute delay, play resumed.

Evansville junior designated hitter Bobby Hodges then launched a three-run home run

over the 415-foot sign in center field off junior pitcher Brian Smith (5-6).

The homer turned a 7-7 tie into a 10-7 lead for Evansville (23-20).

"I wanted to get a big hit," Hodges said. "We haven't been doing well in the late innings. I put a little pressure on myself to get a big hit."

Grice didn't blame his collision with Santiago on the Hilltoppers' loss, but he thought one of them could have made the play, which would have ended the eighth inning before Hodges came up to the plate.

"On plays like that, you can pretty much tell," Grice said. "You start running for it. You plan out the dive even before diving. I've made that play before."

Both Grice and Santiago played last night against Murray State. Neither said they would miss this weekend's series against Louisiana Tech.

Western (20-23) scored five runs in the sixth inning to take a 7-4 lead, but the Aces scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth off Western sophomore pitcher Stephen Stelmie to tie the game.

Sophomore designated hitter Matt Idlett led Western in hitting with a 3-for-4 performance. Senior first/third baseman Josh Patton was 2-for-5 with one RBI for the Hilltoppers.

"This is a typical Western-Evansville game," said Evansville coach Jim Brownlee, whose team improved to 23-20. "I thought it was over when Western was up 7-4, and Stelmie was in the game. But our kids rose to the occasion. Two weeks ago, we would have lost this game."

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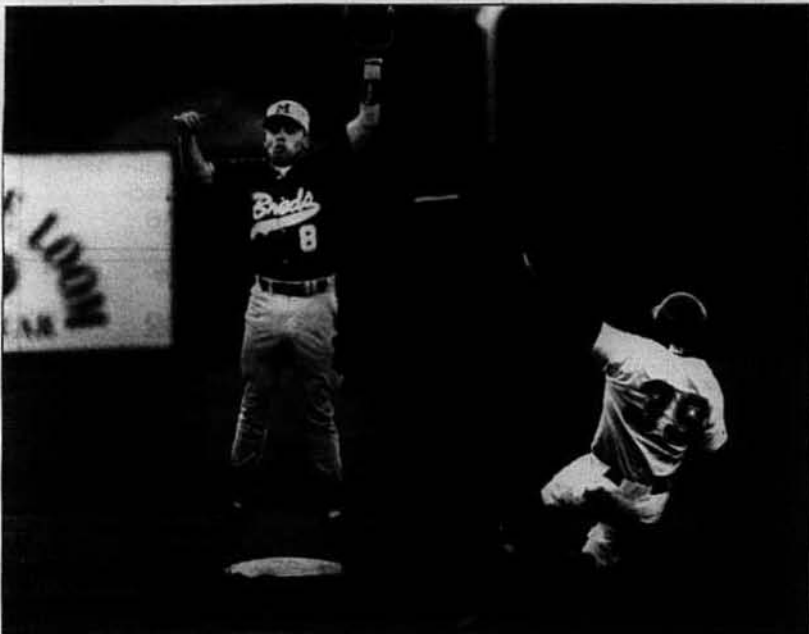


Photo by Chris Stanford/Herald

Freshman center fielder Lorenzo Ferguson slides safely into second base on a throw that was over the head of Murray State sophomore shortstop Brad Burns. Ferguson finished with three home runs as Western defeated the Thoroughbreds 13-3.

Ferguson fuels Tops 13-3 win

BY JERRY BREWER

Crad Jagers started stepping. He exited Denes Field, went across the street, zig-zagged through a parking lot and found the baseball freshman outfielder Lorenzo Ferguson hit well over the left field fence.

When his trek was finished, Jagers found himself near Poland Hall.

"He hit it a long way," Jagers said as he placed his arm over Ferguson's right shoulder. "It landed in that second volleyball court close to Poland."

Ferguson's blast in the sixth inning, his third of the game, provided Western (20-23-9-12 in

Sun Belt) with a 13-1 cushion.

When it was finished, the Hilltoppers rolled to a 13-3 win against Murray State (21-23) last night.

"I don't know how to explain it," Ferguson said while shaking his head. "I was just up there like usual, trying to hit the ball. What happened just happened. I guess it was my day."

It was the entire Western baseball team's day. The Hilltoppers hit a season-high six home runs and freshman Ryan Ferrell (5-2) pitched 6 2/3 innings to stifle the Thoroughbred hitters.

"I think everybody played well tonight," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "This is the approach

to the game you have to have."

Ferrell only allowed three runs on four hits.

Crucial series ahead

Western faces another must-win series with Louisiana Tech (22-22, 12-9) this weekend at Denes Field.

They play a doubleheader at 2 p.m. Saturday, and meet again at 1 p.m. Sunday.

SKIPPER: Coach earns break

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Misjudged fly balls. Walks. Bad base running. Bad pitches. Past balls. Strikeouts. Eighth inning homeruns.

The good is just that — good. Leave it there. Untouched. Unrefined. It seems good can always be improved in Murrie's mind.

The bad is worse, lots worse. It gets personal with him.

But Murrie realizes there's always another game to be played. There's always another chance to improve on fundamentals. There's always another chance to hustle on and off a baseball field. There's always another chance to lead his team in a pregame prayer. There's always another chance to teach his players about the game he loves.

"What goes on out on the field is what's important," Murrie said. "Not the fact that I've been around here for 18 years. It doesn't mean much to my players. And it means probably even less to me."

He took over as Western's coach at age 27 when Barry Schollenberger left to become the head coach at Alabama.

Murrie had the necessary experience to coach at the Division I level. At age 21 he was the head coach at Crestview (Fla.) High School from 1975-1977. He worked as a graduate assistant for Schollenberger from 1978-1979.

The program already was successful, but Murrie saw the need to improve and promote HIS program.

"I feel our crowds are too passive," Murrie was quoted as saying in the March 13, 1980, issue of the Herald. "They are afraid to yell at me or at the umpire. We won't ever be the No. 1 sport. We do want people to know we have a baseball program here and a darn good

one. Our goal is also to present entertainment."

He did.

In his first season he was named the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year after the Hilltoppers finished 47-13-1 — the finest single-season mark in school history. His team won the OVC Tournament but eventually lost to Florida State at the NCAA South Regional.

During the next two years, Murrie's teams would compile an impressive 78-28 record and two regular season OVC championships.

"Joel just fit right into the mold," said Pickens. "He was more than ready to take over a head coaching job on the collegiate level."

The first three years laid the foundation for his program, which has finished first in the Sun Belt Conference regular season twice (1985 and 1988).

He credits his age and closeness to his players for his early success at Western.

"A lot of those players went to bat for me, to Coach Johnny Oldham, the athletics director, and said that they wanted me as head coach," Murrie said. "I think there was a lot of respect for each other. There were a lot of kids that I worked with and helped recruit. It was a good mix."

Murrie has kept a good mix of talent — 51 players in the pros and seven All-Americans.

He is the CEO of a squeaky-clean program. And he has dealt honestly with his players. That's the judge of an extraordinary college skipper.

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Change in Confirmation Procedure

Effective with the Fall 1997 semester, students who participate in Priority Registration will be mailed a bill no later than July 1 which requires them to either pay their account balance in full or to call **Topline** to confirm their schedule of classes by July 14. This procedure replaces the \$100 confirmation fee.

Topline will be available to confirm attendance from June 19 through July 14.

Refer to pages 8 & 9 in the Fall 97 schedule bulletin for more information.

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No Tops in NFL

As the NFL Draft drew to a close Sunday afternoon with the Green Bay Packers selecting Army quarterback Ronnie McAda with the 39th pick in the seventh round (No. 240 overall), I started to wonder how well that 18 percent of my tuition that goes to the athletics department is being spent.

I realize that not all of that money funds the football team — it also supports sports teams that nobody watches like baseball, volleyball, soccer, golf, cross country and track and field.

Since I first arrived at Western in August 1992, the Hilltopper football program has yet to produce one player who has been signed by a National Football League team.

For comparison's sake, players from Central State of Ohio and Langston College of the NAIA (neither of which made the playoffs last year), Missouri Southern of NCAA-Division II (another non-playoff team), Bethune-Cookman from NCAA Division I-AA, a team that went 2-9 in 1996 and 3-8 in 1995 (no postseason there) and Portland State (3-8 in their first season in Division I-AA) were drafted this weekend.

Western, a Division I-AA school, finished 7-4 in 1996. Obviously, these players weren't drafted because their teams played tough competition or have had winning records. So why were they selected and not Hilltoppers?

In my years here, I watched quarterback Eddie Thompson run past defenders and throw an occasional pass, but he never appeared on anybody's draft board.

I saw linebacker Sheldon Benoit punish opposing players with bone-jarring hits. The NFL never called, so he wound up

north of the border in the Canadian Football League.

Not even Antwan Floyd, Western's career rushing leader, has signed to be some NFL team's tackling dummy in their training camp.

He has been passed over for the likes of Daimon Shelton, who ran for 825 yards in his only season of Division I-AA football at California State-Sacramento. Shelton was the sixth-round selection of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Cal State-Sacramento's record last year: 1-10.

Why weren't the Hilltoppers drafted?

Because they're "injury-prone," "too small," "too slow" and "don't have

experience in a pro-style offense or defense," pro scouts and draft experts like Mel Kiper say.

Despite three winning seasons in five years, you'd think someone Western coach Jack Harbaugh recruited would have developed into an NFL player.

For students who don't play for their school's athletics teams, their sports identity comes from their classmates who go on to professional careers.

For Western students, athletics gives them the answer to the question, "What athlete has attended your college?"

The first answer you may think of is Chris Robinson, a guard for basketball's Vancouver Grizzlies. Then you might think of Chris Turner, a catcher for baseball's Anaheim Angels from time to time.

But when I'm asked about recent Western football players, I can only respond with the tight end who won a Super Bowl ring with the Dallas Cowboys in the 1992 season:

Milton Biggins.

Hilltopper track teams preparing for Murray

By Travis Mayo

Confidence. That is what the next meet will build for the Western men's and women's track teams.

At least that's what the Hilltopper track athletes said. The Hilltoppers will compete in the Murray Twilight on Saturday at Murray State.

Austin Peay, Arkansas State, Belmont University, Southern Illinois, Vincennes University and Murray State will also compete at Murray.

"This meet will have a great deal of impact because it will give us a chance to win some races," senior Charles Hopkins said.

Members of the track team said they will have a chance to win some events against a weaker field than the ones they have faced for the last three weeks.

"Everybody has more energy and there's a little more trash talking going on in practice because everybody's looking forward to running their fastest times of the season," junior Jeremy Kazlauskas said.

He added that the meet will give the team a chance to gain some rest, but not too much.

"It's more of a relaxed atmosphere, but you still have the desire to run hard," Kazlauskas said.

Senior Jason Neuss said there are a variety of benefits for the team.

"It will be beneficial for the team and it will give us a chance to work in different areas," he said. "We're going to use it as sort of a workout for conference."

Hopkins said he is looking forward to competing in some new

events at Murray.

"I will have the chance to have fun and kind of get away from my serious events," he said.

Junior Quincy DeJarnette feels the next two weeks could determine where he starts at conference.

"These meets will provide the chance to run decent times that will lead to good lane positions in New Orleans," he said.

The Sun Belt Conference Championship Meet will be held in New Orleans.

Sophomore Anna Adams will hit the track this weekend just like she does every weekend.

"You go at it as a learning experience, no matter who's there to compete against you," she said. "To get to the performance peak, you have to take every step."

Adams added that every meet helps the team.

"There's always room for improvement and there's always competition," she said.

Freshman Valerie Lynch has a definite plan for this weekend: rest. Lynch will be missing in action because of a foot injury.

Neuss agreed the weekend will be ideal for those like Lynch who are fighting injuries.

"It's important for them to get healthy and get ready for conference on May 9-11," he said.

Adams hopes the weaker competition won't result in a fuzzy outlook.

"We need to keep focused on our main goal, and that is to compete to our full capabilities at conference," she said.

Kazlauskas believes it will be at conference where the team will shine the most.

"Our best is yet to come."



Russ Stapleton
Commentary

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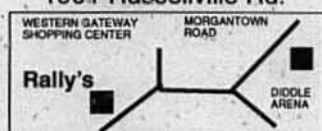
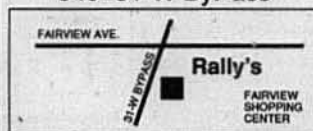
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640 31-W Bypass

1901 Russellville Rd.



**\$1.79 Combo
Meal**

RALLYBURGER made from 100% Pure Beef, fully dressed including tomato, served with a regular order of one-of-a-kind fries and a 20 oz. drink. Add cheese for 30¢.

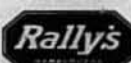


Good at participating Rally's
Tax not included. No limit.
Expires 5/8/97.

CHH

**\$2.69 Big
Buford
Combo**

Rally's 1/3 lb. double cheeseburger, fully dressed including tomato, served with a regular order of one-of-a-kind fries and a 20 oz. drink.

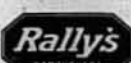


Good at participating Rally's
Tax not included. No limit.
Expires 5/8/97.

CHH

**\$2.99 Chicken
Combo**

All-white meat lightly breaded chicken sandwich with mayonnaise, tomato and lettuce, served with one of a kind fries and a 20 oz. drink.



Good at participating Rally's
Tax not included. No limit.
Expires 5/8/97.

CHH